

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
GOGEBIC COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held in its offices in the Courthouse Annex, City of Bessemer, on the above date.

<b>Present:</b>	Don Bennetts, Chairman	Rob Drier, Commissioner
	Roy D'Antonio, Commissioner	Dan Siirila, Commissioner
	Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager	Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary

**Excused:** Marti Wegner, Vice-Chair

**Also Present:** 4 Public Attendees

- I. **Call to Order** ~ Chairman Bennetts called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of Agenda** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D'Antonio, with all in favor to approve the agenda with the following change: move OB. a. East End Foreman to follow VII. Public Comment, add NB. d. Thousand Island Lake Road Flap Grant, e. Marion Lake Road Maintenance, f. Ironwood Township Regrind, g. Lake Road Culverts, h. City of Ironwood Work, i. Delta County Truck Rentals, j. Road Grading & Mowing, and k. Drug Testing.
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with all in favor to approve the following minutes:
  - Finance Meeting of Monday, June 27, 2016
  - Regular Meeting of Monday, June 27, 2016
  - Closed Meeting of Monday, June 27, 2016
- V. **Public Comment ~ 5 minute limit** ~ Carl DeYoung asked that ditching work be done near his property at the corner of River and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets in Ramsay. He stated that his wife along with himself has requested that this be done numerous times and nothing has been done. He said the Xcel Energy had recently done some clearing resulting in the damage of his driveway culvert. Darren will contact Mr. DeYoung to meet with him to inspect the problem.
- VI. **New Business**
  - a. Public Act 51 Annual Certification of Employee-Related Conditions ~ This certification is due each September and is required to be compliant with PA 152 requirements (medical benefits). A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with all in favor to accept the certification and have Chairman Bennetts and Engineer/Manager Pionk sign the certification.
  - b. Set Bid Date for Winter Cutting Edge Materials ~ Bid will be due on Monday, August 8, 2016. The tabulations will be presented to the Board at the meeting on Monday, August 8, 2016. A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Siirila, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Siirila, D'Antonio, Drier & Bennetts to call for bids for cutting edge materials.
  - c. Set Bid Date for Lakeshore Drive Gravel Work ~ This bid will be for materials, equipment and labor to place and compact 6" of gravel on Lakeshore Drive. This work is being bid out due to the distance of gravel resources of the GCRC and will be cheaper to bid this job out. Bids will be due on Monday, July 25, 2016 and the

tabulations will be presented to the Board at the meeting on Monday, July 25, 2016. This will be a 60%/40% township match project. A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D'Antonio, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~D'Antonio, Siirila, Drier & Bennetts, to call for bids for gravel work on Lakeshore Drive.

- d. Thousand Island Lake Road FLAP Grant ~ Darren advised the Board that this work has not been bid out. With this, the earliest the work would begin would be September/October and is too close to the winter months to be completed. Discussion took place about the funding being lost if the job is not completed this year. Darren stated that the MOA has been submitted and approved and he has asked MDOT and was told that the monies would still be available for 2017. A December bid letting would have construction beginning in early spring of 2017. The GCRC has been installing culverts along the road He suggested paving over these crossings at the cost of approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 or double chip seal the crossings at the cost of approximately \$5,000. A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Drier, D'Antonio & Bennetts; Nays ~ Siirila, motion passed to double chip seal.
- e. Marion Lake Road Maintenance ~ An email from the USDA Forest Service, Ottawa Nation Forest indicating that there is gravel available in the Pit Lake Pit for no charge. Approximately 4,500 cubic yards will be placed up to the campground which is about 1.75 miles. Mike Rogers, Watersmeet Township Supervisor, has indicated that a portion of the township share of \$42,000 will be used for the trucking and compaction.
- f. Ironwood Township Re grind ~ Alan Baron, Ironwood Township Supervisor has indicated that the township share of \$42,000 be used to regrind Luxmore Street, Bale Lane and Salmi Lane. Angelo Luppino will perform this work.
- g. Lake Road Culverts ~ Commissioner Siirila asked who is accountable for installing the culverts on Lake Road when it was raining prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. He stated that he received calls about the condition of the road where numerous culverts had been replaced. He stated he took a ride and the 1st 2 (two) culverts were fine but the 3<sup>rd</sup> culvert was not level with the roadway causing traffic to launch. He stated that the road should have been marked better to identifying the bump in the road. He stated that it was a safety hazard especially with the high vehicle traffic to Little Girls Point during the holiday weekend. Scott Maki responded to the conditions when the culvert was installed and that it was not raining when the culvert was installed. Commissioner Siirila says we need to be held accountable for the work that is being done.
- h. City of Ironwood Work ~ Commissioner Siirila felt that there has been some deception taking place, specifically regarding the work that is being done for the City of Ironwood. A contract was signed to total patch on Ayer Street, with 1 (one) GCRC worker, benefits, materials, equipment and overhead. Then there was notice in the paper that reported that a contract was approved by the City to seal-coat Van Buskirk Road. Upon traveling to the location, Siirila stated that there were 3 (three) GCRC workers performing the crack filling and total patching. Darren explained that upon inspection of Ayer Street, the seal of total patching would be across the road causing a thumping over the seals. With this a decision was made to perform work on Van Buskirk for the amount of \$23,073. Commissioner Siirila stated that this is not was agreed upon and feels the Board is being lied to. He feels with the complaints regarding ditching, mowing, and lack of maintenance on county roads, we should not be doing work for other entities. Commissioner D'Antonio agreed stating that we don't have the manpower to perform our own routine maintenance.
- i. Delta County Truck Rentals ~ Commissioner Siirila stated that the Board approved to rent two (2) trailers from Delta County and not trucks. He felt this is another misrepresentation to the Board. Darren stated that upon discussion with Scott Cebolski, Shop Foreman that the trailers were not compatible with GCRC trucks and would need to be plumbed to adapt to the trailers. Commissioner Siirila stated that an employee

stated that he could do just as good of a job with the equipment that GCRC has. Commissioner Siirila asked Mr. Cebolski how long it would have taken to adapt the trucks to the trailers and Mr. Cebolski stated 2 (two) days. Delta County is charging GCRC the Schedule C rates, which is approximately \$100 and GCRC is renting the trucks and trailers for 1 (one) week. Commissioner Siirila questioned why these units are sitting unused on the days that are rainy. He feels that gravel can still be put on the roadways in the rain. Mr. Pionk and Mr. Maki stated when the rain is heavy it is not ideal to put down gravel. Commissioner Siirila stated that local trucking companies should have been hired to haul gravel instead of renting the trucks and trailers.

- j. Road Grading & Mowing ~ Commissioner D'Antonio asked when the mowing will begin in Watersmeet Township. Jim Mattson, East End Foreman stated that township mowing will begin after the highways are completed. Commissioner D'Antonio also asked about road grading. Mr. Mattson stated that the work force on the east end has been on the culvert replacement work on Thousand Island Lake Road.
- k. Drug Testing ~ Commissioner Siirila asked if all county workers who drive a county vehicle on a daily basis are in the drug testing pool. Scott Maki, West End Foreman is the only Administrative/Supervisor included in the pool. Commissioner Siirila also asked if the Foremen have CDL Medical Cards. Scott Maki and Scott Cebolski have CDL Medical Cards. A policy will be drafted to include all employees who operate a county vehicle on a daily basis be put on the drug testing pool and that the Foremen are required to hold a CDL.

- IX. **Public Comment** ~ Scott Cebolski, Shop Foreman, advised the Board that the Cell Phone Policy had been addressed at the recent Safety Meeting. He stated that when GCRC purchased the dump trailers in the fleet, there were workers who didn't like them, but as they have been using them their feelings have changed. Mr. Cebolski commented on the discussion about the employee who doesn't like the rented trailers and stated that they can spread the gravel more efficiently and stated that it all comes down to how they are operating the equipment that may have a influence on their opinion. He added this is part of holding the employees accountable for the work they perform. He spoke about the culvert issue on Lake Road stating that signage should have been better, however in the past, a person ripped off the oil pan on their vehicle as they were traveling over a gravel covered culvert crossing on Lake Road. GCRC paid for the repairs and a week later, the same person did the same thing, even with knowing the condition of the road. Commissioner Siirila stated that things need to change. Communication is lacking and holding all employees accountable for their work needs to be in place. He added that if the Foremen feel the need to write up employees the Board will stand behind them.

**VI. Old Business**

- a. East End Foreman ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Drier, Siirila, D'Antonio & Bennetts, to move into closed session at 6:58 pm. A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Drier, Siirila, D'Antonio & Bennetts to move into open session at 7:06 pm. A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bennetts, with a roll call taken: Ayes~ D'Antonio, Drier & Bennetts, Nays ~ Siirila, motion passed; to sign the Resignation Agreement and Release with James A. Mattson.
- X. **Adjourn** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier, with all in favor to adjourn at 7:13 pm.

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

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**Secretary**

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**Chairman**